

# Welcome to the WNY Young Writers' Studio!



## **We can't wait to meet you!**

Welcome to Studio! Our sessions are kept intentionally small in order to foster the kind of relationships and learning that might just last a lifetime. We're certain you will feel very much at home within our group, and we are all looking forward to helping you become an important part of our work together.

## **You can begin getting acquainted with Studio by visiting our online communities:**

This is a protected space which will require you to register a password. There is no cost to join, and once inside, you'll be able to view our pictures, connect to other writers and teachers, and create your very own page where you can tell us more about yourself, the things you enjoy doing, and your goals. Visit <http://wnyywss.ning.com> to join us.

You can also learn more about us by reading through last summer's blog postings and updates. You may begin your reading here: <http://wnyyws.org/blog>

Studio is also on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/y65ucaf>

## **Enclosed you will find:**

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

A Photo/Video Release that Must Be Completed

Directions to all of our locations

Please Return the Enrollment Form and Release Form to

Angela Stockman  
94 McKinley Avenue  
Kenmore, New York 14217

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Do teachers have to be practicing or certified in order to join?**

We welcome pre-service, retired, and practicing teachers from all states and institutions. We have much to learn from one another regardless of our titles and positions.

- **Do teachers have to be strong writers in order to attend?**

The purpose of the studio is to nurture each writer's love of the process. Writers and teachers of all experience and comfort levels are most welcome to attend, and care will be taken to ensure that every member of the group feels valued and encouraged. We're here to have fun and grow together over time.

- **Can teachers bring their own laptops, resources, and planning work?**

Yes, participants are welcome to bring their own laptops or any other writing tool that enables them to do their work comfortably. Please understand that participants are responsible for their own belongings, however.

- **Will snacks be provided?**

Snacks are provided for the young writers in our program only. Please feel free to bring your own refreshments and food however.

- **What is the cost of attendance?**

Beginning in July of 2011, there will be no cost for teachers to participate in Studio. However, teachers will be expected to set and achieve professional learning goals, share their expertise with those they meet in our community, and forward the mission and vision of our organization. Those who are unable to make this kind of a commitment should reconsider their intentions to join.

- **What is expected of each teacher?**

Teachers will be supported to define a vision for the work that they would like to do within our community and they will create an action plan that will enable them to accomplish it. They are expected to grow and share their expertise with all community members and position themselves as learners throughout the year. One full day of MANDATORY training must be completed prior to the start of the week long summer sessions. This will be held from 9am-2pm at the Kenan Center in Lockport, New York on July 13, 2011.

During our week-long summer sessions and throughout the year, teachers are expected to arrive to each Studio session one half hour earlier than young writers do: 8:30 for morning sessions and 12:30 for afternoon sessions.

- **How do the year-round sessions work?**

Dates for the year-round session will be announced in late August or early September. Teachers will meet from 9:00-12:00 am OR from 1:00-4:00 pm on a Saturday bi-monthly throughout the school year. Our May session, which is a celebration of writing, will be held in a location where fellows from our Kenan and Cheektowaga locations can join one another.

- **What resources and supplies are teachers provided?**

All teachers will be provided a wealth of resources in **digital form** in June of 2011. These will include the centers that are developed for our sessions this summer, all student resources, lesson plans, curriculum design documents, assessment documents, and templates that will support their efforts to replicate Studio practices in their own classrooms. Teachers are asked to print these resources and bring them each time we meet.

- **What leadership opportunities are available to me as a teacher fellow?**

Studio teachers are New York State certified, experienced teachers who are practicing in local school districts. They participate in comprehensive training and receive mentoring throughout the year. If you are interested in facilitating sessions and have been a fellow for at least one year, consider applying to teach. Applications are made available in February each year.

Studio teachers are invited to present at local, state, and national conferences and workshops and often sponsored to do so. Opportunities are announced as they are made available throughout the year.

All Studio fellows are encouraged to join Communities for Learning: Leading Lasting Change, the learning community that inspires and guides our work. Each year, a new teacher fellow will be sponsored to do so by our organization, as funding allows. Currently, Angela Stockman and Sheri Barsottelli are CFL fellows.

**WNY Young Writers' Studio  
Photo and Video Release Form**

Subject's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_

hereby give Angela Stockman the right and permission to publish photographs and videos taken from July 2011-June 2012 at the WNY Young Writers' Studio Sessions, held in Cheektowag and Lockport New York.

These photographs may be used in Studio newsletters, electronic publications, or in audio-visual presentations, promotional literature, or the news media.

**CIRCLE ONE:** My name MAY, MAY NOT be listed with published photographs or video.

I hereby warrant that I am over eighteen (18) years of age, and I am competent to contract in my own name.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Above (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Date/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary contact can be reached at (circle): home/work

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Disclaimer: the above information is held in confidence and is never released or sold.

**How to Find WNYYWS:**  
**\*Rooms will be announced soon!\***

**The Kenan Center**  
**433 Locust Street, Lockport, NY**

You may insert your starting location here to receive driving directions:  
<http://tinyurl.com/y33ltpt>

**Union East Elementary School, Cheektowaga Central School District**  
**3550 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY**

You may insert your starting location here to receive driving directions:  
<http://tinyurl.com/4h9uakm>